

VZCZCXRO7586
PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHKO #4523 2230446
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 110446Z AUG 06
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5250
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7625
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0942
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3720
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1183
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9858
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1559
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 004523

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q AIRLINE TERROR PLOT IN BRITAIN
- TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: All six papers gave front-page play to reports from London on an announcement Thursday by Scotland Yard that British police arrested 21 suspects in connection with a plot to blow up passenger planes in mid-flight between Britain and the US.

[1](#)1. There were no immediate editorials or TV commentaries concerning the terror plot.

[1](#)2. "Plot Aimed at Dealing New Blow to US and Britain?" London correspondent Inada of the liberal Asahi commented (8/11): "With the fifth anniversary of 9/11 close at hand, it is believed that the terror plot uncovered Thursday in Britain was an attempt by Islamic radicals to deal a new blow to the US and Britain, which are spearheading the war on terrorism. Due to the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, Britain has decided to send additional troops there. Iraq is also on the brink of civil war. To make matters worse, the Israel Defense Forces are intensifying attacks on Hezbollah in Lebanon, giving Islamic radicals an excuse to launch terrorist attacks."

[1](#)3. "Terror Plot Seen as Direct Threat to US" Washington correspondent Sakamoto of the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri commented (8/11): "White House Press Secretary Snow suggested that the terror plot foiled Thursday in Britain posed a direct threat to the security of the US, as all the planes targeted were registered to US-based carriers. Speculation is rife that Al-Qaeda was involved in the plot."

[1](#)4. "US, Britain Concerned About More Terror Plots" The business-oriented Nihon Keizai's London and Washington

correspondents wrote (8/11): "The terror plot exposed by British police Thursday targeted the US and Britain. There are reports that most of the 21 suspects taken into custody are British citizens of Pakistani ancestry, raising speculation that Islamic terrorist cells still exist in Britain. With the fifth anniversary of 9/11 approaching, US and British police and security officials are tightening security in anticipation of further plots."

SCHIEFFER